

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

In re:

FRED DALE VAN WINKLE,

Case No. 13-11743 t7

Debtor.

**ORDER DENYING EMERGENCY MOTION FOR STAY OF DISTRICT COURT
PROCEEDINGS**

This matter came before the Court on Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for Stay of District Court Proceedings, filed July 29, 2019, doc. 83 (the "Emergency Motion"). The Court was not notified about the Emergency Motion until the afternoon of August 8, 2019. Movant Brian Dale Van Winkle is concerned about a hearing that is scheduled to take place at 9:00 a.m. on August 9, 2019 in Alamogordo before Judge James Waylon Counts, in the pending action styled *Bellevue Valley Land Co., et al., v. Fred Van Winkle*, case no. D-1215-CV-201001054, Alamogordo District Court, State of New Mexico (the "State Court Action").

Having reviewed the docket in the State Court Action and the dockets in this bankruptcy case and the related adversary proceeding, the Court FINDS and CONCLUDES that it cannot grant the relief requested in the Emergency Motion for, inter alia, the following reasons:

1. The Court lacks jurisdiction over the State Court Action. This bankruptcy case has been closed since June 18, 2019. The adversary proceeding involving Bellevue Valley Land Co. and the Williamses also is closed. Nothing is pending before the Court that would give the Court jurisdiction to stay the State Court Action.

2. At a minimum, entry of an order staying the State Court Action would require (i) that the bankruptcy case be reopened; (ii) that an adversary proceeding be filed; (iii) that the

proceeding include a request for an injunction; and (iv) that the plaintiff file a separate motion for preliminary injunction. None of that has been done.

3. Alternatively, the bankruptcy case could be reopened and the State Court Action removed to this Court. That has not been done. If it had been done, it is not at all clear that the action would not have to be remanded to state court.

4. The crux of Movant's concern with the upcoming hearing in the State Court Action has to do with the reattachment of the Belleview/Williams judgment lien on real property owned by the Fred Van Winkle estate. This Court ruled that the bankruptcy discharge prevented the reattachment. That ruling, which the Court continues to believe was correct, was reversed by the Tenth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. The reversal was not appealed to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and therefore is the law of the case. It is binding on this Court and on the state court. Given the decision of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, this Court is powerless to grant relief to the movant. If, as it appears, the state court is simply implementing the ruling of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, then it is doing no more than what it is bound to do.

WHEREFORE, the Emergency Motion is DENIED



Hon. David T. Thuma
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Entered: August 8, 2019

Copies to: counsel of record

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